

## *No. 33 - Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region was granted conditional acceptance in the 2009 Region Acceptance Process. The conditions were as follows: (1) to coordinate and cooperate with the Kern County IRWM region, (2) to develop an effective mechanism for cooperation and coordination with the Madera and Central California (now Yosemite-Mariposa) IRWM regions, and (3) to provide documentation of its final north boundary.

The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of the Sierra Resource Conservation District, the Springville Public Utilities District, and the Sequoia River Lands Trust. The effort to develop an IRWM Plan has involved the services of volunteers and it has been a challenging effort to maintain a forward momentum in developing the IRWM Plan.

The RWMG has coordinated with the Upper Kings River Forum in defining its common shared boundary with that region, based on township and range sections, and an updated shape file is currently being developed. The Southern Sierra RWMG has adopted a common shared boundary with Kern IRWM, which corresponds to the Kern-Tulare County line. The Southern Sierra RWMG is focused on maintaining an emphasis on upper watershed issues, which is expected to benefit the downstream foothill and valley regions. The RWMG coordinates with Kern and other neighboring IRWM regions through its attendance of the Tulare Lake Basin Integrated Regional Planning Group meetings.

Letters of Agreement have been signed to manage shared areas with the Madera IRWM and with the Inyo-Mono IRWM regions. The shared area with the Madera region is based on a common watershed area of the upper San Joaquin River. The shared area with the Inyo-Mono is a small area of Madera County—the Devil's Post Pile area—that has water management issues in common with the Inyo-Mono region.

#### **Interview Conclusions - Approved**

The RWMG has shown adequate progress toward resolving conditional acceptance criteria applied in the 2009 RAP. The RWMG is encouraged to continue to seek cooperation and coordination with neighboring IRWM regions to ensure that IRWM planning and implementations efforts progress in a complementary and coordinated manner.